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March 17, 1999 LB 149, 881

25 years, but we make incremental changes, refining our definitions, getting to more and more situations where we have a specific response or a limited response to this set of situations, and limited response to those situations. Solutions are very hard to come by. Have we solved crime? Have we solved education? Have we solved our natural resource? No, these are continuing conundrums and dilemmas, and we wrestle with them every year. This is our best effort to trv predictability. With respect to Senator Brashear, who raises an interesting argument today, because ... and the virtue of it is that it's a direct, clear exchange on the floor rather than a whispered conversation off the floor. It actually raises to the level of direct communication, which is a respectful act, the issue of whether or not we need to do 149, which the Governor doesn't like, and whether or not the Governor is going to get a fair shake on 881 in the Revenue Committee, and whether or not Omaha's going to get a fair shake on the arena and the convention center. My answer to that question is this, as a committee member I have a different position than Senator I think my obligations to my colleague and to a governor of any political party is to listen, listen carefully, to entertain seriously any offer that they make, to offer a fair and complete explanation of my own thinking and my rationales for things. And then the thing that I will not accommodate and will not use as a treatment of courtesy is a Votes come from ideology, votes come from political preferences, votes are different than the behaviors. you should separate the voting from the way you treat other people. And we owe, without regard to our partisan backgrounds or our geography, a thorough explanation, a good listen, and a careful entertaining of any offer. What we owe no one, other than ourselves and our constituents, is a vote, because that's the substance of what we do here, and I...that accommodation I am not willing to make. That is not a form of courtesy to me. A vote is not a form of courtesy. Maybe when it's taken, that might be a sign of courtesy. Certainly the chance to get somebody to explain their thoughts before you vote, that's a matter of courtesy, but not the content of the vote itself. That is something that is separate from the whole matter of at least personal accommodation.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.